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FEBRUARY 7, 1986

PROPOSED SCENARIO

PRIORITIES AND PLANNING MEETING OF  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 9:30 A.M., 414 LANGEVIN

THE MAIN OBJECTIVE OF THIS SPECIAL MEETING IS TO WRAP UP THE BUDGET PACKAGE TO MEET THE END OF FEBRUARY TARGET. THE PROGRAM REVIEW TASK FORCE ITEM HAS BEEN INCLUDED ON THE AGENDA BECAUSE OF ITS RELATION TO THE BUDGET STRATEGY, BUT IT COULD SLIP TO TUESDAY'S P&P (FEBRUARY 11) IF TIME IS NOT AVAILABLE MONDAY MORNING. SIMILARLY, GIVEN MR. CROSBIE'S ABSENCE FROM P&P ON TUESDAY, THE "EQUALITY FOR ALL" RESPONSE HAS ALSO BEEN INCLUDED ON THE AGENDA, BUT YOU WILL HAVE TO JUDGE WHETHER ENOUGH TIME REMAINS AFTER THE BUDGET DISCUSSION HAS BEEN CONCLUDED.

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1. BUDGET PREPARATIONS

- YOU WILL HAVE MET WITH MR. WILSON ON SUNDAY TO REVIEW THE PACKAGE, TO AGREE ON TACTICS FOR PRESENTING IT TO MINISTERS MONDAY MORNING AND FOR SECURING THE CONSENSUS SUPPORT WHICH IS ESSENTIAL.
  
- THE BUDGET OVERVIEW PREPARED BY FINANCE, WHICH STANLEY HARTT PARTICULARLY ASKED THAT YOU REVIEW BEFORE THE PREPARATORY MEETING ON SUNDAY, IS INCLUDED UNDER TAB 1A.
  
- AT SOME POINT DURING THE DISCUSSION, YOU MIGHT EMPHASIZE THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH YOU VIEW MINISTERS' COOPERATION WITH SPENDING AND STAFFING FREEZES, OF WHICH MR. DE COTRET INFORMED HIS COLLEAGUES ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6 (LETTER ATTACHED UNDER TAB 1B).
  
- AT SEVERAL POINTS OVER THE COURSE OF THE DISCUSSION, YOU WILL WANT TO EMPHASIZE TO MINISTERS IN THE STRONGEST TERMS THE NEED FOR ABSOLUTE SECRECY SO THAT THE POSITIVE IMPACT

AND SPECIFIC MEASURES OF THE BUDGET WILL NOT  
BE COMPROMISED BY PREMATURE LEAKS.

- AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE DISCUSSION, IT WILL  
BE IMPORTANT TO ENSURE THAT THERE IS CLEAR  
UNDERSTANDING AND AGREEMENT ON THE TOTALITY OF  
THE BUDGET PROPOSALS. A BUDGET DATE AND THE  
TIMING OF ANNOUNCEMENT SHOULD ALSO BE DECIDED.
- MR. WILSON WILL LEAD A DISCUSSION OF THE  
BUDGET COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY AT P&P ON  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25.

2. PROGRAM REVIEW TASK FORCE: COMMUNICATIONS

- THE PROGRAM REVIEW COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY  
WHICH YOU OUTLINED AT P&P LAST TUESDAY  
(FEBRUARY 4) IS CLOSELY LINKED TO BUDGET  
PREPARATIONS.
- AS YOU REQUESTED, MR. NIELSEN HAS PREPARED A  
DRAFT MAJOR SPEECH ON TASK FORCE ACHIEVEMENTS  
FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE (COPY UNDER

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TAB 2). THE TEXT WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR CIRCULATION TO MINISTERS AT THE MEETING.

- AFTER GIVING MINISTERS 10 MINUTES TO READ THE PROPOSED TEXT, YOU MIGHT SEEK COMMENTS. CONCERNS WILL LIKELY CENTER ON WHETHER THE IMPLICATIONS OF PUBLISHING RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAD DECIDED NOT TO ADOPT IS ADEQUATELY DEALT WITH IN THE TEXT. OTHER QUESTIONS WHICH WILL NEED TO BE ADDRESSED ARE THE TIMING OF MR. NIELSEN'S SPEECH (BEFORE OR AFTER BUDGET) AND HOW CLOSELY RELATED IT IS TO THE RELEASE OF STUDY TEAM REPORTS. (NOTE: IT IS NOT STRICTLY ACCURATE TO REFER TO THESE AS "PRIVATE SECTOR" REPORTS, SINCE THE STUDY TEAMS WERE JOINTLY LED AND STAFFED BY PRIVATE SECTOR AND PUBLIC SERVICE MEMBERS.)
  
- AT THE CONCLUSION, YOU MIGHT WISH TO DRAW ATTENTION TO THE REFERRAL OF STUDY TEAM REPORTS TO THE NEW PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES - SPECIFICALLY TO THE NEED TO ENSURE THAT COMMITTEE REVIEWS ARE ORCHESTRATED IN A WAY

ACCEPTABLE TO THE GOVERNMENT -- THE ROLE OF THE COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN AND CAUCUS MEMBERS ON THE COMMITTEES; THE NEED TO ENSURE THAT MINISTERS CALLED BEFORE COMMITTEES SPEAK WITH ONE VOICE AND FOR THE GOVERNMENT NOT TO BE RUSHED - AS WITH "EQUALITY FOR ALL" - INTO RESPONDING IN 120 DAYS TO VOLUMINOUS AND CONTENTIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS.

-- RATHER THAN SEEKING TO DETERMINE AT THIS MEETING WHAT "CONTROL MECHANISMS" ARE REQUIRED, YOU MIGHT ASK MESSRS. NIELSEN, HNATYSHYN AND BEATTY (WITH CHARLEY McMILLAN'S HELP) TO LOOK INTO THIS MATTER THOROUGHLY.

3. "EQUALITY FOR ALL" REPORT:

-- AT THE P&P MEETING ON THURSDAY, MINISTERS CAME SOME DISTANCE TOWARDS THE VIEWS WHICH YOU EXPRESSED AT TUESDAY'S P&P, ON WOMEN IN THE ARMED FORCES AND MANDATORY RETIREMENT. ON THE ISSUE OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION, HOWEVER, THE CONSENSUS VIEW FAVOURED THE RESPONSE PROPOSED BY CCSD WHICH APPEARED TO STRIKE AN APPROPRIATE BALANCE BETWEEN COMPETING VIEWPOINTS. IT WAS ARGUED THAT ALTHOUGH THE

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE ON THIS LAST POINT WOULD BE PORTRAYED AS A "WEAK" RESPONSE BY THE MEDIA, IT WOULD BE PALATABLE TO BOTH CAUCUS AND CONSTITUENTS.

-- A DETAILED BRIEFING NOTE IS INCLUDED UNDER TAB 3. IT SUMMARIZES THE DISCUSSION AT P&P ON THURSDAY, ATTACHES THE REVISED RESPONSES PROPOSED BY P&P MINISTERS (AVAILABLE FOR CIRCULATION AT THE MEETING) AND DISCUSSES THE ISSUE OF PRIMACY OF THE CANADIAN HUMAN RIGHTS ACT.

-- IF YOU DISAGREE STRONGLY WITH P&P MINISTERS' RECOMMENDATIONS, IT WILL REQUIRE VIGOROUS LEADERSHIP ON YOUR PART TO ARRIVE AT A STRONGER RESPONSE.

-- ON THE QUESTION OF PRIMACY, HOWEVER, STRENGTHENING THE PROPOSED RESPONSE ALONG THE LINES OF MR. CROSBIE'S ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION WOULD INVOLVE LESS CONTROVERSY. IT IS AN IMPORTANT SYMBOLIC POINT THAT HAS ALREADY BEEN DECIDED BY THE COURTS.

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-- IN CONCLUSION YOU MIGHT STRESS THE PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE OF A WELL-CONCEIVED AND COORDINATED COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY AND SUGGEST THAT MR. CROSBIE AND MR. EPP WORK CLOSELY WITH MR. BEATTY AND HIS COMMITTEE.

4. OTHER BUSINESS:

-- MISS CARNEY HAS RECEIVED, VIA FRED DICKSON, A REPORT OF YOUR CONVERSATION WITH PREMIER BUCHANAN IN HALIFAX LAST WEEKEND WITH RESPECT TO OFFSHORE INCENTIVES, EQUALIZATION, ETC. SINCE SHE WILL BE ABSENT (IN ST. JOHN'S) FROM P&P TUESDAY, SHE PLANS TO SEEK YOUR VIEWS MONDAY ON ANY UNDERSTANDINGS WITH THE PREMIER.



R. G. BLACKBURN